

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 22 November 2000
Name of applicant/court: The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Video Wholesalers Ltd
Title of Publication: Motel Sex
Other Known Titles: Not Stated
Director: Not Stated
Producer: Not Stated
Publisher: Not Applicable
Author: Not Applicable
Format: DVD
Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

Components of film originally examined:

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Mister Marcus' Neighbourhood	2.05
Back On The Prowl 1	3.45
Back On The Prowl 3	2.41
Back On The Prowl 4	3.29
Channel X	2.18
Outdoor Hardcore	2.40
Freak	3.09
Non Moving Components:	
Dark Room	
Chapters	
Audio Setup	
	Total Running time:
	229.24

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

Direction to issue a label has not been given.

SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The DVD entitled *Motel Sex* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The DVD consists of a feature, trailers and a number of still images. All of these components explicitly depict sexual activity. The publication has been given an objectionable classification in view of the degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication depicts sexual conduct of a highly degrading, demeaning and dehumanising nature. The publication itself also degrades, demeans and dehumanises the participants to a high degree. The strongest degrading, demeaning and dehumanising elements occur in five particular trailers. The trailers present scenarios where women are either offered for sex to patrons of a sex shop, or where men treat women in a manner that is openly contemptuous and aggressive. The cumulative effect of these trailers is highly degrading and dehumanising to the women involved, and to women in general.

Normally excisions would be offered to remove the degrading, demeaning and dehumanising elements discussed above. However, the DVD format of the publication prevents the Classification Office from doing so in this instance. If excisions were able to be offered, they would be to remove five of the trailers, so that the remaining material could be classified as restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) have been taken into account in determining the classification for *Motel Sex*. However, by virtue of the way in which the publication deals with matters of sex, particularly its strong degrading, dehumanising and demeaning elements, the publication is regarded as objectionable. A classification of "objectionable" places a limit on the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the NZBR Act. However, in relation to this publication, the classification is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

OFLC Ref: 1918